

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed January 9, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-3 and 7-10 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-3 and 7-10 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

The Examiner indicated that the title of the invention was not sufficiently descriptive, and required a new title. In response, the current title has been deleted and substituted with a new title

in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 6-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 6-7 contains allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice, and independent claims 1 and 9-10 have been amended to include the features of allowable claim 6. Further, claims 4-6 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

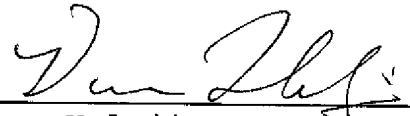
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 9-10 should be allowable. In addition, claims 2-3 and 7-8 should be allowable at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to

submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: New Abstract

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